

Forest Conflict in Cambodia: An Overview

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Presentation Outline

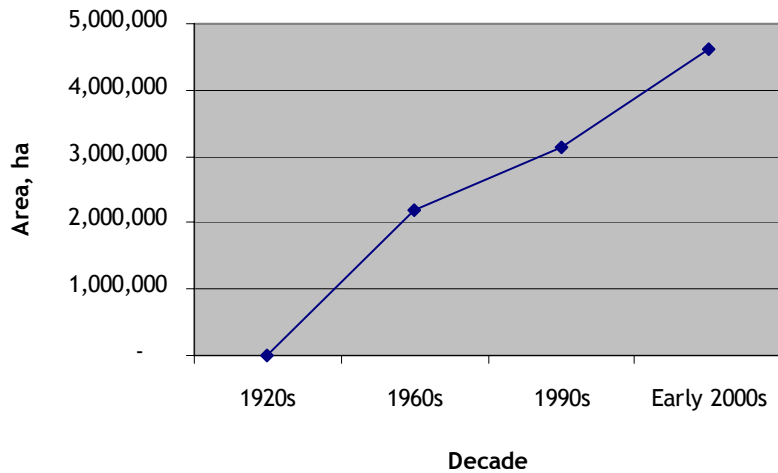
1. About Cambodia
2. Forest Management in Contemporary Cambodia
3. Conflicts
4. Strategic Consideration

1. About Cambodia

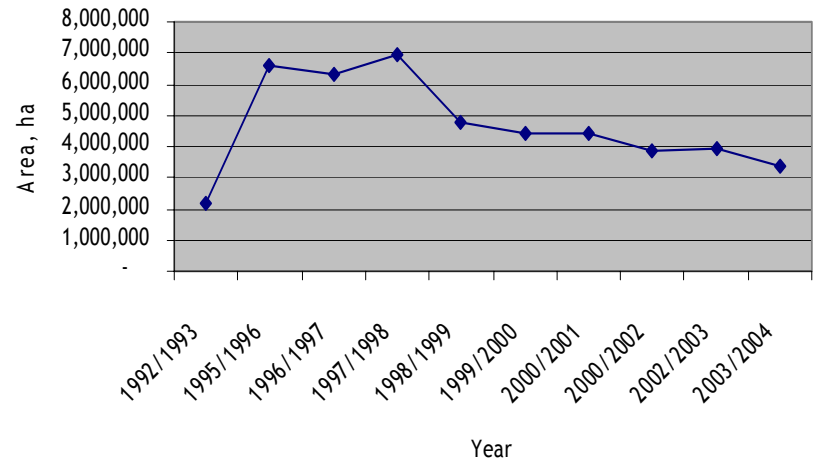
- South-East Asia
- 13.81 million people
- Poverty 35%
- Most of the poor are in rural area relying on agriculture and natural resources

2. Forest Management in Contemporary Cambodia

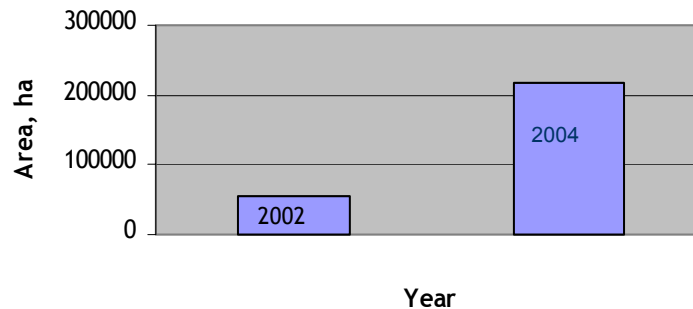
Protected Area



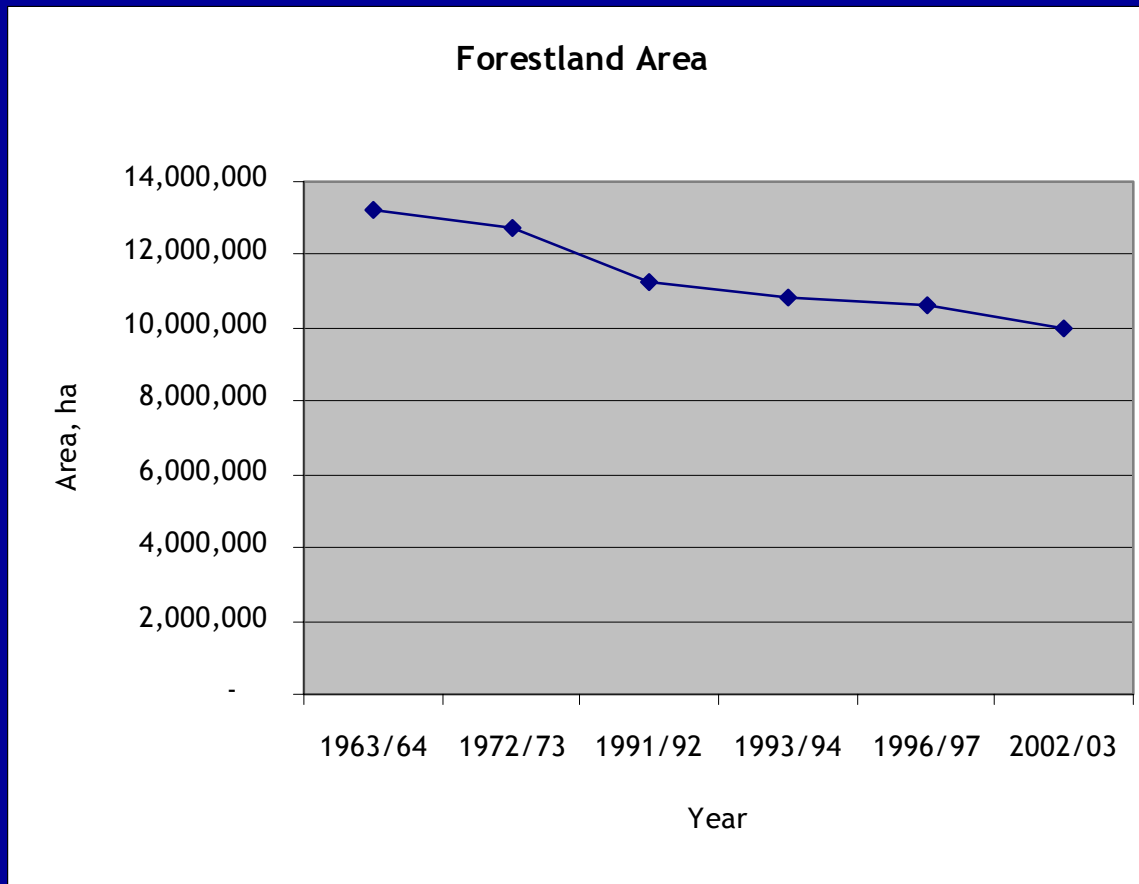
Forest Concession Status



Area under Community Forest, Ha



2. Forest Management in Contemporary Cambodia



4. Conflicts – Enabling Factors

- Timber – valuable and relatively easily harvested and sold
- Competing use of land
- Limited respect for laws
- Landlessness and poverty
- Minority voice and power of forest-dependent communities

4. Conflicts – Direct Causes of Conflict

- Land grabbing
- Encroachment by agricultural settlers
- Land Concessions
- Management vacuum in suspended forest concessions
- Illegal timber harvesting
- Forest use restrictions in protected area and forest

4. Conflicts – Underlying Causes of Conflict

- **Weak governance:**
 - **Forest communities** – lack of understanding of their rights and tenure denial.
 - **Absence of forest use classification and comprehensive land use planning**
 - **Economic incentives** – illegal harvest of timber and forestland grab, absence of law enforcement.
- **A growing population of young, landless people**
- **Improved access to forest access** by the extension and upgrading of the nation's road network

4. Conflicts – Impacts

- Livelihoods of local communities, including indigenous peoples
 - 0.15 million affected directly by land conflicts
 - 0.7 million affected indirectly by forest conflicts
 - 1.7 million affected directly and indirectly by both land and forest conflicts through loss of livelihoods
- Erosion and sedimentation
- Threat to and loss of habitats for wildlife (including rare and endangered species, which are globally threatened)
- Climate change

THREAT TO PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

5. Strategic Consideration

- Finalize the national **legal and spatial planning framework** for allocating forest resource and land use/tenure rights.
- Instill **respect for the rule of law** regarding forest and land allocation, tenure, and use. (Accelerate political reform to reduce corruption and political interference)
- Develop the **capacity of forest communities** to effectively demand their rights and to sustainably manage their forest and land resources
- Implement **mechanisms and procedures** for conferring tenure and use rights through community land titles combined with community forestry agreements
- Improve **natural resource governance** at the province, district, and commune levels including use of the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) methodology
- **Provide alternative livelihoods** for potential or actual land encroachers
- **Monitor and report forest crimes** and community-level conflict
- **Penalize** forest crimes

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR KIND
ATTENTION**

Education, best practices, awareness of legal frameworks and rights, ...



(a) Secure access to resources and secure livelihoods

(b) Communities get organized: CLT, CF and CFI



Current situation

(a) Democracy:

- Still fragile
- Mixed results

(b) Legal framework:

- Relatively better than two decades ago
- Under further development

(c) People-oriented institutions:

- Lacking
- Still top-down
- Limited decentralization
- No agency function decentralization

(d) Awareness of and respect for law:

- Extremely limited
- Widespread abuses

(e) Enforcement:

- Extremely limited

Poverty is of multi-dimension. (PPA). It is the aftermath of both natural and man-made phenomena. Natural disasters such as drought, flood, hurricane, earthquake, volcanic eruption, climate change, epidemics and pandemics in both animals and human-beings and the like could easily force general population into the vicious circle of poverty.

Man's irresponsible, greedy and/or reckless acts such as war, conflict, fire and lack of initiative and proactiveness put man in poverty trap. Poverty is the consequence of institutional arrangements created by the powerful (Mohamud Yunus as quoted by Kusum S. I. and Reidar D., 1997) that mirror, in general, bad governance.